



Old Fletton Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

upon the

Sanitary Condition of the District

During the year 1959.



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OLD FLETON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1959)

Chairman : W. KENDRICK

Mrs. D. R. ALLAN

H. COX

A. D. COLEMAN

N. CULLUP

G. E. FULLER

(Chairman of the Council)

N. W. HUTCHINGS

F. A. PEAKE (Deceased)
(Chairman of the Council)

G. WILSON

H. R. VYSE

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health P. V. CANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector L. DEARDEN, A.I.A.S., A.M.I.P.H.E.,
M.A.P.H.I.

To the Old Fletton Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to submit my Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1959.

Old Fletton is a comparatively prosperous area, and the living standards of the population are very good indeed. There is still little difficulty in obtaining employment, the chief industries being Engineering, Brick-making and Food Canning.

The population mid-year estimate again shows an increase, this being by 240 over the previous year.

The year was notable for an unusually dry summer, and the health of the District has been very good. There have been no epidemics, and no cases of poliomyelitis in the area during the period. I believe that we are now beginning to benefit by our drive to get as many persons as possible immunised against poliomyelitis, but this will take time. Through diphtheria immunisation we are managing to virtually keep diphtheria out of the Country. Diphtheria is a terrible disease which formerly killed considerable numbers of children and young people, and we must not relax in our efforts to keep our children immunised against it.

The birth rate is again high, and I am glad to report a lower infant death rate than last year. This year, at the request of the Ministry, two extra rates are shown, these being the Early Neo-natal, or deaths within the first week of life, and the Perinatal, which shows still-births plus deaths within the first week of life per thousand total live and still-births.

The crude death rate of 9.1 per thousand, when adjusted for population differences by the Registrar General's comparability factor becomes 11.7 per thousand, which closely corresponds to the national rate.

The water pressure in certain parts of the District has been a source of anxiety for some years past, but work has continued throughout the year on the building of the new reservoir and pumping station at Fletton Spring, and the laying of new trunk mains to reinforce those already present. A considerable improvement in the supply position is expected when these come into operation.

It was very satisfactory that the Council decided to submit an application to the Ministry for two Smoke Control Orders for the new

housing estates to be built to the north side of Whittlesey Road. The Council are to be congratulated upon their far-sightedness in this matter.

I am glad to record that the County Council have now decided to build a new Clinic on Peterborough Road in the Stanground area. This will cater for Maternity and Child Welfare, the various aspects of the health of the school child, immunisation, dental and mental health services. With the rapidly increasing population in this part of the District the need for such a Clinic is becoming really acute.

My sincere thanks are due to the Members of the Council, their officers and staff for their kindness and co-operation with me in carrying on the work.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3029 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1959)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11290
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1959	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3521
Rateable Value, 31/12/59	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£171,532
Value of Penny Rate, 31/3/1959	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£534.19.10.
Live Births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	231
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20.5
Still-births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17.0
Total live and still-births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	235
Infant deaths	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26.0
„ „ „ „ „ „ —legitimate	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22.0
„ „ „ „ „ „ —illegitimate	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	250.0
Neo Natal (first four weeks) „ „	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21.7
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (first week) per 1,000 live births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17.3
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined) per 1,000 total live and still-births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	34.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.7
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Death rate per 1,000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9.1

INFANT DEATHS

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Actual Number of Deaths	2	3	4	2	9	6
Rates All Infants Per 1,000 Live Births	14.1	19.9	21.1	8.8	36.9	26.0
Deaths from Cancer (total)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Coronary Disease—angina	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
Other Heart Disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

Comparison of rates with those of England & Wales.

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Births
	Live Births	Ad- justed Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Ad- justed Death Rate	Infantile Mortality	Still Births
Old Fletton	20.5	20.3	9.1	11.7	26.0	17.02
England & Wales	16.5	16.5	11.6	11.6	22.0	20.7

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes Registrar-General's figures) :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.	56	47	103
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	—	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	—	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	1	8
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3	6	9
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	4	8
18. Coronary disease, angina	13	5	18
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—
20. Other heart disease	9	7	16
21. Other circulatory disease	1	1	2
22. Influenza	1	—	1
23. Pneumonia	1	3	4
24. Bronchitis	4	2	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	—	1	1
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	—	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	—	—
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	5	8	13
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	1	—	1
34. All other accidents	2	2	4
35. Suicide	—	—	—
36. Homicide & operations of war	—	—	—

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Sir,

I beg to submit my Report for the year ended 31st December, 1959.

HOUSING.

The Council have adhered to their policy during this year of not building for general needs. Seven single bedroom bungalows were, however, erected as these still attract a subsidy, and by allowing existing tenants to transfer from houses which had grown a burden to them, left those vacant for applicants with families.

No Demolition Orders or Clearance Areas were confirmed this year.

There was only one case of Statutory Overcrowding which, after appropriate action, was abated, but there was still a tendency for some of the immigrant population to sub-let parts of their houses to an undesirable extent.

Housing Act 1939-54 (Improvement Grants)

With the introduction of Standard Grants we have received for the first time for several years applications in respect of tenanted properties. This is particularly pleasing since it was precisely this type of dwelling which the policy of aided improvements was intended to assist.

The Council, in their capacity as landlords, themselves decided to investigate the possibility of carrying out improvements to their pre-war non-parlour type houses, and after a considerable delay in obtaining sanction for this, were able to commence work on one such property as an experiment towards the end of the year.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	150
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	340
(2) Total number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	150

2.	Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers excluding those dealt with by Improvement Grants	8
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
	(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957 :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By owners	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
	(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By owners	2
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
	(C) Proceedings under Sections 17 and 35 of the Housing Act, 1957	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
	(3) Number of houses closed during the year	Nil
	(4) Number of families displaced during the year	Nil
	(D) Proceedings under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957	

CLEARANCE AREAS

(1)	Number of Clearance Areas declared during the year	Nil
(2)	Total number of houses included in (1) above	Nil
(3)	Number of houses included by reason of unfitness for human habitation	Nil
(4)	Number of houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil
(5)	Number of families displaced during the year	Nil
(6)	Number of houses demolished during the year	6

WATER SUPPLY.

Work has continued throughout the year on the erection of a water reservoir and pumping station at Fletton Spring, and the laying of water mains intended to reinforce existing services. At the end of the year the programme was some 70% complete and it is hoped that the whole will come into operation in the Spring of next year.

The unusually dry summer caused temporary difficulties in water supplies, due in the main to thoughtlessness on the part of persons using water on their gardens. This was done to such an extent that to prevent it the Council were compelled to issue a public warning that this practice would result in proceedings being taken where it was detected.

Two lengths of Galvanised Iron mains in The Glen, and London Road/New Road, had given increasing trouble over the last few years due to corrosion, and advantage was taken of the current mains laying contract to have these defective lengths replaced at the same time.

The provision of water to new Housing Development has continued by arrangement with the Developers concerned, and towards the end of the year a further large scale development necessitated the drafting of plans to meet the domestic water requirements of some 550 more dwellings.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Consultant Engineer's report as to the necessity for expanding the Sewage Disposal Works and the need for re-sewering parts of the district was received during the last month of the year, but consideration will not be given to this until January when the Council will have to decide which of the separate sections of their sewers and sewage disposal works shall receive attention.

The hot dry summer enabled sludge drying to go on with a minimum of trouble, but we have not been so fortunate with securing an ultimate disposal point as we were last year, and the disposal of this product in a highly urbanised district still remains a problem.

Work was completed during the year on the Whittlesey Road Sewage Pumping Station and associated sewers, thus enabling housing development to proceed on both the Oakdale and the Park Farm Estates. Older properties at the Eastern end of Whittlesey Road were also able, for the first time, to connect to the main sewerage system, and several took advantage of this. It is hoped that during the coming year the remainder will also take advantage of this facility and that the recurrent nuisance associated with cesspools in this area will cease.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Collection has, generally speaking, been maintained on a regular weekly basis. Regular routine maintenance of the two refuse vehicles has enabled them to be kept on the road constantly, and the time allowed by the Council for these maintenance and cleaning duties does, I am sure, pay dividends.

The collection and sale of waste paper has continued with profit to both the Council and the Collectors, and the additional income which the latter are enabled to obtain plays a part in reducing labour change-over.

STREET SWEEPING.

There has now been a full year's working for the Council to be able to assess the results of taking over this particular service from the County. There has been a considerable saving in cost over the previous system and street cleanliness has improved.

It has been very difficult, however, to retain a competent driver for the mechanical road sweeper. This machine is quite complex and proper maintenance is vital if repair costs are to be kept to a minimum. With the wage the Council are allowed to offer however under national agreements it is not easy in an area of full employment such as this to obtain or retain an operative of the right calibre.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

The number of animals killed in the district continues to fall, and it was possible to maintain one hundred percent meat inspection although the vacancy for a Public Health Inspector was not filled during the year.

Discussions took place with the occupiers of our two Slaughterhouses over the implications which the Slaughterhouses Act 1958, and the regulations made thereunder had for them. Each was informed of the work which would be required in order to bring their slaughterhouses up to a satisfactory standard, and with this information they are now in a position to decide whether or not to continue slaughtering operations.

Legal action was found necessary in the case of one food shop during the year and a Fine of £20.0.0. was imposed by the Magistrates for contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955.

An isolated case of a foreign body being found in bread was reported to the Council, but after consideration they felt that in this case a warning would be adequate provided that certain structural repairs were carried out to the premises concerned, and these were accordingly done.

FOOD PREMISES.

- (i) The number of food premises in the area by type of business are :—

Butchers shops	.....	.....	.....	7
Grocers	.....	.....	.....	30
Bakers	.....	.....	.....	2
Canteen	.....	.....	.....	7
Fish	.....	.....	.....	7

- (ii) Food premises already included above, selling in addition milk or ice cream 25.
- (iii) No. of inspections of registered food premises 60.
- (iv) No new educational activities have been undertaken recently.
- (v) Condemned meat is sold to a knacker dealer, and other food is buried on a controlled tip.
- (vi) No large stocks have been condemned in part.
- (vii) No ice cream is made in the District. It is sold pre-packed.
- (viii) There was one successful prosecution during the year under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	16	—	—	103	301	—
Number inspected	16	—	—	103	301	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	11	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci	12.5	—	—	—	3.65	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	31	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	12.5	—	—	—	10.29	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

TENTS, CARAVANS AND SHEDS.

It is with regret that, as in my report for 1957/58, I have to inform you that no action was taken by the County Council in respect of a colony of mobile dwellings to which their attention had been drawn. The passage of time has now rendered enforcement proceedings void, and unless there is new legislation we are apparently faced with a permanently established colony of these dwellings.

The Rivers Board appear to be endeavouring once more to clear the houseboats from the stretch of water which lies in our district. Such action has not yet been taken so far as legal proceedings, and the outcome of the Board's efforts is therefore still in doubt.

The Council felt that their policy over rehousing the occupants cannot be decided until this doubt is resolved.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The Council submitted two Smoke Control Orders to the Ministry during the year and a Public Inquiry on these was held on 16th December, 1959. The Minister's decision has not yet been received. It is hoped that this will be available before development of the two areas concerned reaches the stage of individual house completion.

As I mentioned last year, the Brick Industry were then applying to the Ministry of Fuel and Power for registration as an exempted industry. We are now informed that this application has been granted, the result being that supervision and enforcement of the Clean Air Act in the case of their plant is to be carried out by the Alkali Inspectorate. It will be a matter of considerable interest to see what degree of success they have with this very difficult problem.

Prior notification was received in respect of one new installation during the year—an oil burning furnace. The provision of the Act requiring prior notification is likely to prove of value as it is easier to prevent the erection of plant which is likely to cause a nuisance than to deal with the nuisance once operations have commenced.

NUISANCES.

Abated as a result of informal action	.....	.....	.....	11
Abated as a result Statutory action	.....	.....	.....	1

Analysis	No.	No. of Inspections
Premises	5	14
Overcrowding	Nil	Nil
Smoke Pollution	Nil	Nil
Accumulation of Refuse	1	3
Foul ditches, etc.	Nil	Nil
Drains	1	2
Disinfestation	4	12

Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)	No. established	Nil
	No. of inspections	Nil

DISINFESTATION.

1. Cockroaches.

No. of houses infested	(a) Council—4	(b) Private—Nil
No. of houses disinfested	(a) Council—4	(b) Private—Nil

2. Rats and Mice.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

No. of houses inspected	32
No. of houses treated and cleared	24

DISINFECTION.

Cases of Infectious Diseases reported	62
No. of Inspections	5
Premises disinfected :— (a) Tuberculosis	Nil
(b) Others	Nil
Schools disinfected	Nil

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No. of shops inspected	Nil
Total No. of visits	Nil
No. requiring additional heating	Nil
No. requiring additional ventilation	Nil
No. requiring additional sanitary conveniences	Nil

L. DEARDEN,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1959.

[illegible]

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 25.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 45.....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

PHILIP V. CANT,

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
High Street,
Old Fletton.

